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have been made acquainted with men worthy and excellent, the most of them, as members of society, and raised by their professional attainments or energy of spirit above the level of the community in which they dwelt, yet hardly possessed of such superior genius, or salient traits, or special attractiveness of character, as to give them a permanent place in our memory. To those who knew them when living, or now fill the places they have left, these memorials may have a far different interest. Yet even they have a right to complain that the biographer has shown but little skill in setting forth the virtues of their friends. Indeed, we have never read a series of biographical sketches so deficient in clearness and discrimination, so full of irrelevant matter, so ill-compacted and carelessly compiled. A single instance may illustrate a part of what we mean. In a memoir of Duncan G. Campbell, — the father of Mr. Justice Campbell of the Supreme Court of the United States, — less than three pages are occupied by the account of his life, while, as he happened to have been appointed by President Monroe one of two commissioners “to form a treaty with the Creek Indians for the sale of their lands in Georgia and Alabama,” not less than eighteen pages are filled with an abstract of the public documents of the State of Georgia relative to the famous controversy between that State, the Creek Indians, and the United States, in which Governor Troup figured so largely, though Mr. Campbell had no earthly connection with a single document of them all.

Among the subjects are some names which have a national reputation. The lives of such men as William H. Crawford, Berrien, Forsyth, and Richard H. Wilde, have an interest for all their countrymen; and though Mr. Miller rises somewhat in his efforts to do them justice, we cannot but regret that they have not found a more competent biographer.

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4. — *The Life of Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the Royal Academy, F. R. S., D. C. L.* By his Son, MARTIN ARCHER SHEE, of the Middle Temple, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1860. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xiv. and 443, 389.

THE late Sir Martin Archer Shee was a man of a strong and self-relying character; and by his own unremitting exertions he raised himself to eminence in his profession, and to a position of much personal and official influence. As a portrait-painter he was inferior to none of his contemporaries except Sir Thomas Lawrence; as President of the Royal Academy he discharged the various and important duties devolv-

ing on him with signal ability; and he was, beside, an eloquent and effective speaker, and a writer, both in prose and verse, of some reputation. For many years before his death his social and official rank brought him in contact with some of the most distinguished men of the day; and, through the circumstances in which he was then placed, his life became in a great degree identified with the history of British art. His youth was clouded by frequent and heavy sorrows. He was born in Dublin, in December, 1769, of an ancient but decayed family, which claims, like most Irish families, to be derived from one of the early kings of Ireland. Before he was two years old his mother died; and he was only fourteen when his father, who had been blind for many years, also died. Consequently, he received very little parental instruction, and was early thrown on his own resources. While a mere child he left his aunt's house, because he thought that he was regarded as a burden, and resolved to gain a livelihood for himself as a painter. For several years he practised the art in the Irish capital, with a success remarkable for one so young as he then was, and with a growing reputation. At length, encouraged by the advice of his friends, he determined to seek a more ample field for the exercise of his talents, and when he was in his nineteenth year he repaired to London. Here he made his way more slowly, but still with a perceptible advance; and in November, 1798, he was elected an associate of the Royal Academy. In a little more than a year after receiving this recognition of his rank as a painter, he was made a member of that body; and in January, 1830, on the death of Sir Thomas Lawrence, he was chosen to the Presidency. He had held this office only a short time when he was compelled to take the principal part in defence of the Academy, from the repeated attacks made on it in Parliament and before the Parliamentary Committee on Fine Arts. To the prosperous issue of this memorable and long protracted contest he contributed in no small degree by his zeal and energy; and his administration forms one of the most important chapters in the history of the Academy. Early in 1846, however, his declining health induced him to resign the chair which he had filled with so much ability; but he subsequently withdrew his resignation, at the written request of all the members and associates, who thus testified their sense of his valuable services. Though his physical condition was such as to render him incapable of performing his official duties, he continued in the Presidency until his death, which occurred in August, 1850, in his eighty-first year.

The Life of such a man could scarcely be written in a manner which should render it entirely devoid of interest; for it appeals at once to the sympathies of every reader. The personal history of a poor and

comparatively friendless orphan, who courageously encounters the evils of adverse fortune, and triumphs over the difficulties by which he is surrounded, needs little rhetorical skill on the part of the writer to insure for it a large popularity. But the author of the memoir before us possesses few of the higher qualities of a biographer; and his *Life of his father* affords only one more proof that filial affection is not the most important requisite for the performance of such a task. The work contains, indeed, much material which might have been wrought into a very attractive narrative; but it is spread over a dreary waste of trivial details and commonplace remarks. In a word, Mr. Shee's memoir may be characterized as tedious and prolix, while his estimate of his father's abilities is much too high, and his tone is often that of a strong partisan. Instead of bringing out in sharp and clear outline the manly traits which render Sir Martin's example full of instruction, it leaves on the mind of the reader only a vague impression of them. An adequate account of his life and character still remains to be written.

- 5.—*The Jacobite Songs and Ballads of Scotland, from 1688 to 1746. With an Appendix of Modern Jacobite Songs.* Edited by CHARLES MACKAY, LL. D. London and Glasgow: Richard Griffin & Co. 1861. 16mo. pp. 348.

NOWHERE is there a more striking instance of wrong-headed loyalty than is afforded by the history of the Scotch Jacobites; and nowhere has this sentiment found a richer or more various poetical expression than in the songs and ballads through which they testified their devotion to the exiled Stuarts. These songs form, indeed, the most attractive part of the minstrelsy of Scotland, and every addition to their number is an acceptable contribution to poetical literature. Mr. Mackay has therefore rendered a real service to a large class of readers by the preparation of the little volume before us, though we wish he had done his work better. His volume comprises nearly a hundred and fifty songs, most of which were composed in the first half of the eighteenth century, beside an Appendix of more than twenty-five songs of the same character, but of a more recent date. In his collection are included all or nearly all of the specimens given by previous writers on the subject, and some which are not contained, we believe, in any similar work. Many of them are curious, and nearly all are interesting. Mr. Mackay is certainly entitled to the praise of diligence in bringing together so large a body of Jacobite poetry; but in other respects his editorial duties have been discharged in a very perfunctory